

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting, February 16, 2017
Minutes**

Noelle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

In attendance:

Committee members/CoA members: Noelle Heyman, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Hileia Seeger, David Denton, John Honig, Mary Petrizzo, Bonnie Klem, Stephanie Edelstein

Liaisons: n/a

Staff: Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

The minutes from the January 17th could not be approved because we did not have them. Will approve next month.

Chair's Report – Noelle Heyman.

Design for Life Coalition – The Coalition includes Habitat for Humanity, Silver Spring and Takoma Park Villages; Montgomery College, Takoma Park; and Rebuilding Together. Pazit Aviv, MC Village Coordinator is chairing this coalition. Habitat for Humanity is applying for funding in the form of County Executive and County Council grants for a pilot-project. The program will provide light repairs for seniors including: electrical fixes, ramp installations, small repairs, etc. Per Isabelle the two villages involved are in the process of identifying families who would benefit from this type of service. The Coalition is also researching training and legal complications of using volunteers for this type of assistance.

- Exec Committee discussed if we wanted to support this project as a Commission – left it as individuals can, or, we might write a letter of support since there are many non-profits applying for the same funding that CoA may want to support if they knew what the projects were. Odile was going to find out about considerations of COA writing a letter of support or attending meetings that Habitat for Humanity might have with County Councilmembers or County Depts.
- Noelle spoke to Sarah Reddinger, Habitat for Humanity about connecting the project with WISH – Shenita Freeman

Council Member Berliner's Senior Forum - conversation focused on caregiving, specifically caregiving that is provided by aides who are not associated with an agency. Conversation focused on lack of training and oversight and how that is balanced with lower prices, which make private aides more affordable for seniors on fixed incomes. Challenges around isolated seniors and potential abuse were a large part of the discussion.

- Group discussed getting villages involved

- Mary suggested working with post-acute RN liaisons who follow-up with people after they are home

Transportation Service Regulations – MC \$.25 tax on Uber and Lyft has raised 750K in 1.5 years for the Transportation Services Initiative Fund. Now the money needs to be appropriately distributed to achieve the goal of getting more accessible vehicles on the road. Comments are due March 2. Issues drafted up by Shawn Brennan and discussed included: is the \$3,000 for each of five years (\$15,000 total) sufficient incentive, can we track people so they don't take the incentive and leave, is \$.10/mile a high enough reimbursement for the increased cost of driving an accessible vehicle.

Succession Planning – Noelle's term will end 12/31- the CoA will need to elect a new Chair and she suggested beginning to plan now. Isabelle mentioned that as First Vice Chair, folks might think that she is in line to become Chair, so she wanted folks to know that she is taking herself out of consideration since she will have only one year left on CoA and she thinks the new Chair should be able to serve two years. This will be brought up at a future CoA meeting. On a side note 10 new members are joining the CoA this year.

AAA Director's Report – Dr. Odile Brunetto

Park and Rec survey - P&R survey went out on 2/15. This survey only happens every 5 years so Odile encouraged group to share with everyone in their networks.

Caregiver support newsletter and calendar- will be sent out monthly to those who register and will include a calendar of local events for caregivers.

SNAP interactive map – was created – you will be able to put in a zip code and have the site show up.

Ombudsman Program – involved in SNF (NMS) that is being investigated for fraud and illegal discharge of clients. Committee got involved because of concerns of existing clients. The overall consensus was that we think current clients are being treated okay but that it is something to keep an eye on.

Mobility/Transportation – is reaching out to people who speak different languages including Korean and Spanish around MoCo transportation options.

Nurses Meeting Seniors – currently serving 2,200 up from 1,800. Program is in the red due to low Medicaid reimbursements. Odile is concerned about the future of this program with current administration.

Pazit A/Villages – submitted a proposal and will be doing a talk in Georgia on how AAAs can get involved in the creation of villages.

Commission Business

Health Planning, Services and Community Supports Committee – David Denton

- Judy Peres is part of MD dental coalition group
- Two bills (HB & SB) on hold due to changes in administration and budget cuts but there is general support for dental coverage for adults
- Had presentation from WISH and will continue to support this initiative
- Still involved in End of Life coalition – Judy and Tina are members

Aging in Place/Community and Planning Committee – Mary Petrizzo

- AIPCP will be meeting on Feb. 21st with guest, Clarence Scruggs, Director, Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
- Mary and Judy Peres developed a proposed approach to enhance new member orientation and smoother transition into active membership.
 - Committee discussed proposed mentor system- changed it to “buddy” system but the group agreed unanimously that the suggestions made by Mary and Judy were a good way to deal with getting new members onboard as quickly as possible. Will be discussed at larger CoA meeting.
 - Discussion moved to a letter written by Isabelle and Stephanie re: speeding up the onboarding process. Odile asked that the letter be sent after the budget was approved. Group agreed to shorten the letter and send after the CE’s budget is issued on March 14th. Requests included: moving up the nominating timeframe, getting people to meetings before they are officially accepted through the buddy system, having the ability to replace members who miss more than three meetings. Currently if an absent member appeals they are allowed to stay.

Public Policy Committee- John and Stephanie

- Currently focusing on State legislation – a lot going on!
- Sent three letters last month and five more are in the pipeline – Odile and Noelle are reviewing
- John and Stephanie went over a list of bills and where they were in the process – not listing them here because they are already on a list
- PP is monitoring many bills at this time and are anticipating more changes

CoA Meetings:

- After reviewing the liaison survey report it was decided that the liaisons would do their reports after AAA Director’s Report. It was also agreed that the Chair would encourage the liaisons to provide key info. for COA to be aware of or to support.
- It was also agreed that the Chair would call on people who want to ask questions or make comments and appoint a time keeper to keep members on track and make the meetings feel less “chaotic.”

Meeting called to end at 11:30 by Noelle after approval of CoA meeting agenda that was drafted by Odile and updated by the group.